

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ANTANA 01425 280514Z
ACTION AF-10

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ANTANANARIVO 1425

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, MA, KN, KS
SUBJ: NORTH KOREA ATTACKS ON U.S.

REF: A) ANT 1294; B) ANT 1171; C) STATE 152709;
D) ANT 1141; E) ANT 1150; F) 77 STATE 131292;
G) ANT 1302

1. SUMMARY: OFFICIAL MEDIA HAS PROMINENTLY PUBLICIZED
CHARGE THAT U.S. STARTED 1950 KOREAN WAR. I REQUEST
AUTHORIZATION TO SEND NOTE TO FOREIGN MINISTRY SAYING
THAT OFFICIAL DIFFUSION OF NORTH KOREAN ATTACKS ON
U.S., AND REFUSAL TO ALLOW U.S. TO REPLY, CANNOT
FACILITATE THE NORMALIZATION OF MALAGASY/U.S.
RELATIONS WHICH DRM AUTHORITIES PROFESS TO DESIRE.
MALAGASY ACTIONS ON KOREAN MATTER, ALONG WITH
RATSIRAKA VISIT TO MOSCOW AND SPEECH TO AOU, STRENGTHEN
MY VIEW THAT IT WOULD NOT BE APPROPRIATE AT THIS TIME
FOR THE U.S. TO TAKE ANY NEW INITIATIVES TO NORMALIZE
RELATIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. IN OFFICIAL PRESS BULLETIN OF JULY 27 THERE
APPEARS ARTICLE ATTRIBUTED TO MALAGASY NEWS SERVICE
DETAILING KOREAN CHARGE THAT U.S. BEGAN WAR OF AGGRESSION
ON NORTH KOREA IN 1950. THIS IS FIRST TIME SINCE JULY
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5, 1977, THAT A NORTH KOREAN OR MALAGASY STATEMENT HAS
HIGHLIGHTED IN SUCH CATEGORIC FASHION THIS PARTICULARLY
NORTH KOREAN CHARGE. DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL THAT
FOREIGN MINISTRY LAST YEAR TOOK CREDIT FOR HAVING SUCH
ACCUSATIONS OMITTED IN CONNECTION WITH "MONTH OF
SOLIDARITY WITH NORTH KOREA," OR AT LEAST TONED DOWN.
UNTIL TODAY THIS STRICTURE SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN OBSERVED

AND THERE HAVE BEEN ONLY PASSING OR OBLIQUE REFERENCES TO 1950 AMERICAN ATTACK. THERE HAS CONTINUED TO BE, HOWEVER, AS THERE WAS LAST YEAR, A STEADY PROCESSION OF ARTICLES IN PRESS BULLETIN IN CONNECTION WITH "SOLIDARITY MONTH" DETAILING NORTH KOREAN POSITION ON U.S./SKOREAN WAR PREPARATIONS, U.S. PREVENTION OF REUNIFICATION, ETC., AND AMPLE COVERAGE OF SPEECHES NORTH KOREAN AMBASSADOR HAS BEEN GIVING IN VARIOUS TOWNS THROUGHOUT THE ISLAND.

3. LEAD-IN PARA OF ITEM IN BULLETIN READS AS FOLLOWS:
"HAVING FRANTICALLY PURSUED PREPARATIONS FOR A WAR OF AGGRESSION AFTER THEIR OCCUPATION OF SOUTH KOREA, THE AMERICAN IMPERIALISTS UNLEASHED, ON JUNE 25, 1950, A CRIMINAL WAR OF AGGRESSION AGAINST THE KOREAN PEOPLE, IN THEIR ODIOUS AMBITION TO CONQUER ALL OF KOREA AND EVENTUALLY TO DOMINATE THE WORLD."

4. DURING MY DISCUSSION WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS ON THIS SUBJECT, THEY HAVE STRESSED FACT THAT, AGAIN AS RESULT OF MINISTRY SUASION, NO MALAGASY OFFICIAL HAS MADE DIRECT ACCUSATION AGAINST U.S. (IGNORING EARLIER STATEMENT BY MINISTER OF INFORMATION, REF B) AND THAT NORTH KOREAN AMBASSADOR SPEAKS ONLY FOR HIMSELF. THEY HAVE FORWARDED BY REQUEST FOR PUBLICATION OF THE U.S. POSITION ON KOREA (REF A) TO CONFIDENTIAL

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THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION BUT CANNOT TELL ME IF THERE WILL BE ANY FOLLOW-UP. AT SUGGESTION OF DIRECTOR OF BILATERAL RELATIONS, PAUL RAKOTONDRAZASY, I SENT ANOTHER NOTE ON 20 JULY ASKING FOR AUTHORIZATION TO HOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE AT WHICH I COULD GIVE PRESS AND RADIO/TV REPRESENTATIVES THE U.S. POSITION ON KOREA. I HAVE NO REPLY TO THIS NOTE AND RAKOTONDRAZASY TELLS ME HE DOESN'T KNOW IF OR WHEN I WILL GET ONE OR WHAT IT WOULD SAY.

5. ACTION REQUEST: I THINK NEXT STEP IS TO INFORM THE DRM FORMALLY THAT THE USG A) HAS TAKEN NOTE OF THE NORTH KOREAN ATTACKS ON THE U.S., THEIR REPETITION BY OFFICIAL MEDIA, AND THE REFUSAL OF THE DRM AUTHORITIES TO PERMIT THE U.S. POINT OF VIEW TO BE HEARD, B) CANNOT BUT CONCLUDE THAT THIS SITUATION INDICATES DRM INDIFFERENCE TO THE STATE OF ITS RELATIONS WITH THE U.S., IF NOT DOWNRIGHT HOSTILITY, AND C) MUST POINT OUT THAT THIS ATTITUDE WILL NOT FACILITATE THE NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. WHICH MALAGASY AUTHORITIES PROFESS TO DESIRE. I THEREFORE REQUEST AUTHORIZATION TO SEND A NOTE TO THE ABOVE EFFECT WHEN AND IF IT IS

ESTABLISHED THAT THERE WILL BE NO RESULTS TO MY NOTES OF
JULY 7 AND JULY 20. END ACTION REQUEST.

6. COMMENT. I REALIZE GOING ON THE RECORD IN THIS
FASHION COULD BE INCONSISTENT WITH ANY OF ACTIONS
BEING CONSIDERED IN DEPARTMENT REGARDING OUR OVERALL
RELATIONSHIP WITH MADAGASCAR (REF C). HOWEVER, THE DRM
ACTIONS ON THE KOREAN ISSUE, COMBINED WITH RATSIRAKA'S
TRIP TO THE USSR AND HIS SPEECH AT KHARTOUM (REF G),
ARE IMPORTANT FACTORS IN MY VIEW ARGUING AGAINST ANY
NEW U.S. INITIATIVES AT THIS TIME. MY PREFERENCE FOR
NOT RPT NOT CHANGING OUR POSITION AT THIS TIME HAS NOW
BEEN CONSIDERABLY STRENGTHENED. THE ONE OFFICER OF
THIS MISSION WHO DISAGREED WITH THIS VIEW AND WHOSE
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DISSENT WE REPORTED IN REF E IN ACCORDANCE WITH DEPART-
MENT INSTRUCTIONS (REF F), HAS CHANGED HIS MIND AND
IS NOW AGAINST ANY NEW USG INITIATIVES AT THIS TIME. BARRETT

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